Finance Committee

TOWN OF HALIFAX

499 Plymouth Street

Halifax, MA 02338

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 21, 2019**

**Committee Members Present**: Melinda Tarsi, Bill McAvoy, Fred McGovern, Cheryll Zarella-Burke Meeting was held in the Teacher’s lounge at Halifax Elementary prior to Special Town Meeting

Also, in attendance in the audience were Town Accountant Sandra Nolan and Chris Winiwiecz of Circuit St in Halifax

Melinda called the meeting to order without quorum at 6:15pm and advised that on official business could be voted on but that we could certainly allow for public participation and hear what Mr Winiwiecz had come to discuss with the Committee.

Melinda ran through the Warrant to comment on the Articles that had previously been voted and what still needed to be voted.

Melinda asked Mr Winiwiecz what he would like to discuss with the Committee. He advised that he was there to speak about Articles 1 and 2 regarding Recreational Marijuana Establishments. He said that he and some neighbors are against Article 1 due to zoning map and regulations on Marijuana Establishments not being within 500 feet of a location pouring alcohol. He said that due to the Town of Halifax zoning map and that state regulation, it would force establishments into business districts in Halifax (because of the way the Town is zoned) and many of the business districts have homes in them. He believes the Town has twice voted to zone these establishments into Industrial Zones only, and we should continue to leave them in Industrial zones. He said he spoke to the Police Chief about this matter a year ago and he stated that the Police Chief agreed with Mr Winiewicz that studies have proven that Towns that had legal marijuana sales also have seen a spike in illegal marijuana sales and increased problems related to the matter.

Mr Winieweicz then stated that he was part of the group that had written the draft of Article 2 and that the intent of the Article is to create a buffer of an additional 300 feet between marijuana establishments and residences if marijuana establishments are allowed in business districts. Melinda asked if we voted for a buffer zone in the past as she thought she recalled that. Sandra Nolan said that she believes Melinda was recalling that this article had come up in the May 2019 town meeting but that it was never voted upon because the Town had Passed Over the article at that time. Melinda asked if anyone else had other questions on Articles 1 and 2. No one had any further discussion.

**Fred McGovern joined the meeting at 6:35pm and quorum was met**

The Committee discussed dates for future meetings. Committee Members said they could make a meeting on 10/28 and 11/18. Linda Cole advised the Board that Charlie Seelig had requested that they add a discussion about OPEB funding to their next meetings.

**Melinda entertained a motion to bill a bill for Cheryll Zarella Burke to attend an ATFC meeting.**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**AIF**

The Committee then reviewed Articles 1 and 2 again with Mr Winiwiecz now that Fred was also in the room. Melinda stated that she now better understands Article 2 because the intent was explained by Mr Winiweicz. She said that originally it seemed overly restrictive to her but now she understands what the writers were trying to accomplish.

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article 1 as printed**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**Melinda chose to abstain from the vote, Cheryll was in favor and Fred and Bill were against recommending**

**1-2-1 Article 1 was not recommended**

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article 2 as printed**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**Melinda was opposed, Fred, Bill and Cheryll were for it, Article 2 3-1 Article 2 recommended**

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article 4 changing wording from renewed to reviewed for in-law apartments.**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**AIF**

Melinda asked for clarification on what changes were made to the Stormwater Article since it was published in the warrant. Sandra Nolan said that Conservation Commission has now been named the enforcing authority and that the 5,000 square feet part of the regulation was changed to say 1 acre.

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Article 21**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

Discussion- Bill is glad to see that Con Com is now the authority because it makes the most sense. Melinda agrees. Bill wonders about the costs for enacting this. Melinda says the bylaw has to be accepted first and then the fees are addressed. Sandy says fee schedules don’t necessarily have to go through Town Meeting, some do but some are just set by the appointing authority, it all depends on what the law is for that fee schedule. Bill points out that the Town is currently non-compliant with the State Stormwater regulations, so we probably have to vote the bylaw anyway.

**Melinda asks for the vote – AIF**

The Finance Committee asked Charlie Seelig (who stopped by the meeting momentarily) if the Planning Board had voted any recommendations on the Zoning/Planning articles. Charlie said they had not. Charlie said that Town Meeting could vote the articles without the Planning Board recommendations in most cases. Melinda stated that the Finance Committee can take a quick vote on recommending those articles and can vote to Pass Over Article 1 if necessary.

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 5**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 5**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 7**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 7**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 8**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 8**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 9**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 9**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 10**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 10**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 11**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 11**

**Melinda entertained a motion on recommending Article 12**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**4-0 against recommending Article 12**

**Melinda entertained a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of 10-07-19**

Motion: Bill McAvoy (to accept, noting that Artilce 4 had been left off the minutes but was revoted tonight)

Second: Cheryll Zarella Burke

**AIF**

**Melinda entertained a motion to adjourn to Special Town Meeting at 7:30 in the All Purpose Room**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**AIF**

7:30 pm all members meet again for Special Town Meeting and the Town Meeting is called to order

8:02 Article 6 is addressed. Finance Committee votes to change recommendation

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend to Pass Over Article 6**

Motion: Cheryll Zarella Burke

Second: Fred McGovern

**AIF**

8:18 pm Article 12 is addressed

**Melinda entertained a motion to recommend Passing Over all Zoning Articles**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Cheryll Zarella Burke

**AIF**

8:40 pm Article 11 is addressed, and the Finance Committee does not recommend (based on vote earlier in the night) There is some discussion on Town Meeting floor

**Melinda entertains a motion to recommend to Pass Over Article 11**

Motion: Bill McAvoy

Second: Fred McGovern

**AIF**

**Melinda entertains a motion to return to original vote not to recommend**

Motion: Fred McGovern

Second: Bill McAvoy

**AIF**

8:51 pm Article 2 is addressed. Melinda states the Finance Committee recommends. There is discussion on the floor. Melinda states that the Finance Committee’s recommendation was not unanimous. There is more discussion on STM floor

**Melinda makes a motion to recommend to Pass Over the article**

Motion: Fred McGovern

Second: Cheryll Zarella Burke

**AIF**

9:03 pm Special Town Meeting adjourns.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cole, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fred McGovern, Clerk